

Homework 2: Microcensus

Research & Policy Seminar: Economics of Distribution

Use the 2021 Microcensus file used in class: *10752_da10_de_v4_0.dta*

1. Household vs. Person:
 - (a) Show the unweighted and weighted number of households and persons by quarter and for the whole year. Use both weight variables (*gew1* and *gewjahr*) and explain the difference and when to use which.
 - (b) What is the gender (*bsex*) distribution of the household heads (*xhrp*) compared to the overall gender distribution? Why is that relevant?
 - (c) Calculate the household-level average and individual average of hours worked (*dstd*) and compare by gender. Interpret what you see.
2. Panel structure:
 - (a) What is the weighted share of individuals that you observe at least twice within the year? What is the share of households with at least one person that is observed at least twice?
 - (b) Now restrict the dataset to individuals you observe in Q1 and Q2 and between 19 and 64 years (*xbalt5*):
 - i. How many persons switch employment status (*xlf1*) between Q1 and Q2 and how? Calculate the weighted share of these groups among all persons in Q1.
 - ii. Now focus on one of these switching groups and show some characteristics of them in comparison to either the whole Q1 sample from 2.b.i) or another comparison group that you find more appropriate. Choose at least 2 variables that you find interesting and have not been used in class. (see Codebook on Canvas) Explain what you find.
3. Housing:
 - (a) Now restrict the full dataset to the household-level. What is the weighted share of households owning their own home, renting or living for free (*wrechtk*) by urbanisation degree (*xurb*) and bundesland (*xnuts2*) separately?
 - (b) Restrict the sample to those renting as main tenants (*wrechtk* and *wrechtl*) and create two housing cost variables: total costs (*wkges*) and per square meter (*wm2*). Plot the weighted distribution of the two. Interpret.
 - (c) Now plot the weighted distribution of the two housing cost variables by two relevant household characteristics of your choosing, separately. Explain why you chose the two and interpret what you find.